



Fellow Arkansans,

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, one of my top priorities is to fight hunger and promote health among children in Arkansas through the reauthorization of our federal child nutrition programs, which expire next year.

When so many families are struggling with job losses and a poor economy, federal child nutrition programs are more important than ever. Too often, meals that our children get at school may be the only square meal they get a day.

Ensuring that our federal food assistance programs promote health among our children is also essential as we work to reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity and diet-related chronic disease.

On November 17, I will conduct my first hearing as Chairman on Child Nutrition Reauthorization. In addition to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, I have asked four Arkansans to testify as to how we can best improve our child nutrition programs. It is important to me that Arkansans play a major role in all aspects of the Committee's work and the individuals who will be participating in this hearing have the expertise to provide great insight.

Testifying at the November 17 hearing are **Dr. Margaret Bogle**, Executive Director of the USDA's Delta Obesity Prevention Research Unit; **Mr. Rich Huddleston**, Executive Director of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families; **Ms. Rhonda Sanders**, Executive Director of the Arkansas Hunger Alliance; and **Ms. Jennifer Smith**, who serves as Director of Compliance for Walmart, which has focused on issues pertaining to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

As we move forward with our efforts to improve our child nutrition programs, I welcome your input as well. Please feel free to [contact me](#) with any ideas you may have on how we can make these programs work better for Arkansas children. I look forward to your feedback as the Committee works to ensure that no child goes hungry and that nutritious food is available to all children.

With Arkansas Pride,

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